

# THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Volume 132 Number 15

## Select Board Member Dies, Another Arrested

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Over the weekend, it was announced that select board member Gary Bellavance, 58, had died unexpectedly. This announcement came a week after the arrest of another select board member, Michael Deering, also 58. Deering was cited by the Hardwick Police Department (HPD) in the Tops Parking Lot for Driving Under the Influence - II.

As of press time, the Gazette has not received a response to a request for comment about either member.

Hardwick's town website posted a statement about Bellavance's passing: "Gary Bella-

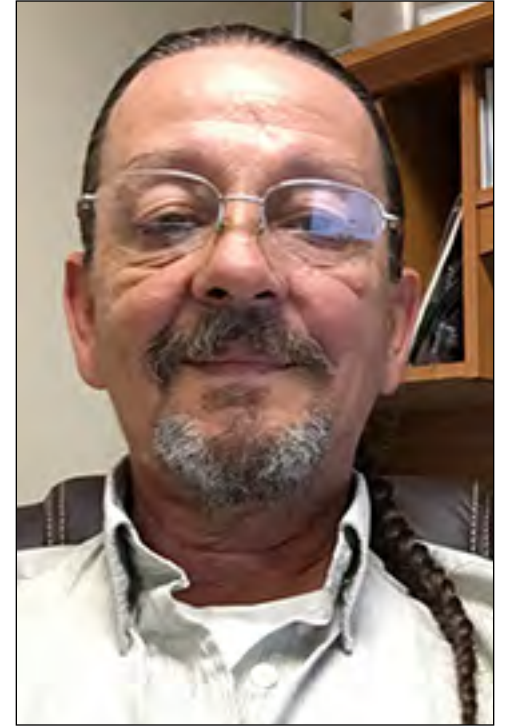
vance passed away unexpectedly Friday, April 16. Gary was a longtime and active community member and most recently served as a member of the Hardwick Select Board. Gary will be greatly missed and on behalf of the Town, our condolences to his family and friends."

HPD referred a request for details about the Deering case to Caledonia Superior Court, where Deering will be arraigned next week. The citation reads that officers responded at 4:40 p.m. on Friday, April 9, to a "Report of male passed out in pickup truck beside the [Tops] Store. Above mentioned male was screened and

See BOARD, 2



Gary Bellavance



Michael Deering



photo by Doug McClure

Wolcott Select Board Chair Linda Martin (front center) broke ground Sunday for the Community Garden. The ambitious project is seeking grant funding and donations. Also pictured (left to right in the back) Deb Klein, Dolly Holton, Linda Brady, Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Rick Harkins, Tom Martin, Rep. Dan Noyes (D-Lamoille-2).

### Community Garden Opens in Wolcott

by Doug McClure

WOLCOTT – Sometimes, the smallest projects can lead to larger opportunities and spur new community engagement. For Wolcott, \$500 of grant money could dramatically change everything.

Sally Gardner, Wolcott's town librarian for decades, and lister Deb Klein had an idea for a community garden. Select board chair Linda Martin took an interest and, coincidentally, Healthy Lamoille Valley (HLV) was at the same time looking at projects exactly like this one.

HLV offered a round of "mini-grants" for projects focused on "improving our communities' health." Klein, along with town administrator Randall Szott, took them up on the offer and applied, and shortly after the town learned it was approved for the \$500 grant.

See GARDEN, 4

### Hazen Hosts Forum on Return to Four-Day School

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – Last Wednesday, Hazen Union principal David Perrigo, Assistant Principal Jason Di Giulio, and Director of Guidance Kasey Potter hosted a forum about the school's plan to migrate to four days per week in-school after this week's break. All three said the school was making significant efforts to continue the flexibility it had offered to students since the pandemic began.

Perrigo said, "The public take on what is happening at Hazen is that we've been in hybrid mode, which means that students come to school two days a week in in-person learning and then three days a week in remote learning. The truth of the matter of that is though that is true for some students, there are many students in our school who have special accommodations for all kinds of reasons. [Many] students have had a really personalized program put together for them this year at Hazen."

Perrigo said that this flexible approach had mostly worked but "it has created a bit of a nightmare for us when it has come to wanting to switch back to something that looks a little bit more like a system that can accommodate students for at least four days a week."

Di Giulio said that despite loosened state guidance, the school was being extra careful in light of the pandemic. Perrigo said that several parents were concerned about COVID safety. Di Giulio spoke about the state reducing its social distancing guidelines to three feet. "We're trying to avoid doing that," he said. He added that cases could still emerge and force some grades to go back to remote instruction, as had happened at other schools.

Di Giulio said "a portion of our [school] population has really taken advantage of that [curricular] flexibility to build a learning

See FORUM, 4



photo by Jared Nunery

John Stone III and his wife Emily stand under the sweeping boughs of the largest Eastern White Pine in Vermont, steps from their home in Greensboro.

### Largest White Pine in Vermont Links Generations in Greensboro

by Maggie Lee

GREENSBORO – When Jared Nunery, the Orleans County forester, met up with Greensboro property owner John Stone III, Stone had something he was excited to show him. What started as a routine forest management plan inspection soon turned into a sensational finding: the largest Eastern White Pine in the state of Vermont, just steps from Stone's back door.

Nunery was excited by this find, in part

See PINE, 2

**Contents**

Police Reports..... 3  
 Select Board Gets Update on Downtown Designation..... 5  
 Select Board Tackles Multi-faceted Agenda ..... 6  
 Bob Bell Congratulated by Select Board ..... 6  
 Board Debates Crosswalk Safety ..... 7  
 Cabot Cheese, Collaboration and Hardwick Connections ..... 8  
 Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday ..... 9  
 Springtime in the North Country (photos) ..... 10  
 Our Communities..... 11  
 Obituaries..... 12  
 This Week's Events ..... 13  
 New Beginnings Exhibit at River Arts ..... 13  
 LCP Plans Auditions for "Annie" ..... 13  
 Rural Ramblings: Spring Cleaning Reveals Mystery ..... 14  
 Legislative Report: Updates on the Session ..... 15  
 Yankee Notebook: Like the Adventurers of Antiquity..... 16  
 In the Garden: It's Time to Reflect on Our Gardens ..... 17  
 Meeting Memo, Business Directory ..... 18  
 Hebert Tastes Victory at Northeast Classic ..... 19  
 Twinfield Alums Look to Revive Softball Program ..... 19  
 Runners' Roundup..... 20  
 Wildcats Hope to Recapture Momentum ..... 21

**Board**

**Continued From Page One**

subsequently processed for DUI II. Cited and released."

Bellavance's unexpected passing creates a vacancy on the select board. Both the town charter and state statute specify the select board's actions when a seat becomes vacant unexpectedly.

The Town of Hardwick Charter says that "When an elected officer specified in section 302(a) of this charter resigns, makes another Town his or her residence, dies, or becomes incapacitated, the office shall become vacant and the selectmen shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting. The person elected shall at the annual meeting serve until the predecessor's term expires. Incapacity shall include the failure of a selectman to attend 50 percent of the meetings of the Board in any calendar year."

The charter also states in 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 123, § 307 that "[a] when there is a vacancy in any such board, commission, or office, the Town Manager may cause to be published, in a newspaper of general local circulation, a notice of the vacancy... [b] Any qualified

voter of the Town may, within 10 days of the publication, submit his or her name to the Town Manager as an applicant for the vacant or expired office... 10 days from the date of publication, the names of all persons being considered shall be entered in the selectmen's minutes. The selectmen shall not fill the vacancy or expired term until after at least seven days from the date the names of the applicants are entered in the minutes."

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns notes in its Municipal Assistance FAQs that "The Town is obliged to provide public notice of the vacancy within ten days of the effective date of the vacancy... by posting such notice in the town clerk's office and at least two public places in town. 24 V.S.A. § 961(a). The notice serves to inform the public of the change in leadership and of the citizens' right to petition for a special town meeting to elect someone to the position. 24 V.S.A. § 961(a). Posting the notice of vacancy is required in all instances, regardless of whether the selectboard fills the vacancy by appointment. Note that the selectboard may appoint to fill a vacancy before the notice is publicly posted."



**April 21 - April 27**

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<p><b>San Pellegrino 6 pk.</b>  <b>Sparkling Beverage</b>                  \$4.99 66.9 oz.</p>	<p><b>Gatorade</b>  <b>Sports Drink</b>                  5/\$5 32 oz.</p>	<p><b>Wide Awake K-Cup</b>  <b>or Ground Coffee</b>                  \$4.49 10 ct. or 11 oz.</p>		
<p><b>Kellogg's Rice Krispies, Honey</b>  <b>Smacks or Corn Flakes</b>                  2/\$5 11.4-15.3 oz.</p>	<p><b>Kellogg's</b>  <b>Raisin Bran</b>                  2/\$5 14-16.6 oz.</p>	<p><b>Bear Naked</b>  <b>Granola</b>                  \$3.79 11.2-12 oz.</p>		
<p><b>Prince</b>  <b>Pasta</b>                  5/\$5 12-16 oz.</p>	<p><b>Newman's</b>  <b>Pasta Sauce</b>                  \$2.29 15-24 oz.</p>	<p><b>Newman's</b>  <b>Salad Dressing</b>                  \$2.99 16 oz.</p>		
<p><b>Nabisco Saltines or</b>  <b>Oyster Crackers</b>                  2/\$5 9-16 oz.</p>	<p><b>7th Generation</b>  <b>Dish Soap</b>                  \$3.49 25 oz.</p>	<p><b>7th Generation</b>  <b>Laundry Detergent</b>                  \$6.99 50 oz.</p>		
<p><b>Almond Breeze</b>  <b>Milk Alternative</b>                  2/\$6 64 oz.</p>	<p><b>Green Mountain</b>  <b>Greek Yogurt</b>                  5/\$5 5.3 oz.</p>	<p><b>Ben &amp; Jerry's</b>  <b>Ice Cream</b>                  \$3.99 16 oz.</p>		
<p><b>California Extra</b>  <b>Large Navel Oranges</b>                  89¢ ea.</p>	<p><b>Imported Cluster</b>  <b>Tomatoes</b>                  99¢ lb.</p>	<p><b>Bolthouse 2 lb. Mini</b>  <b>Peeled Carrots</b>                  2/\$4</p>		

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**Pine**

**Continued From Page One**

because of the size, but also due to the tree's story. "One of the terms that we call them as foresters is legacy trees. They [can be] biological legacies of past land use, sometimes [indicating] a disturbance."

According to the USDA, many white pines can grow to be over 150 feet tall, but the tree in Greensboro is only 90 feet tall. Nunery explained how this tree indicates the history of the property and of the surrounding landscape. Many Eastern White Pine pines that can be seen while hiking through the woods of the Green Mountains are ramrod straight, with few branches near the bottom. This giant, however, has many sweeping limbs branching out a few feet above the base of the tree. This growth pattern is not common in heavily forested Vermont. "It grew before agricultural abandonment," says Nunery, meaning that it likely took root "around 1900, in a then-open field."

John Stone II, now almost 90, remembers his father, John Stone I, purchasing the property in 1957 after a fire claimed the farm buildings that once stood on the land. "When it burned down -- unbeknownst to me, I was away overseas working -- my father and mother decided to buy it, and eventually planned to have a

house up there." Stone II went on to share that the family has been in Greensboro since 1910 and has passed the property down since it was bought in the 1950s.

John Stone III feels a connection the tree. "It may not last forever, but we're certainly going to enjoy it through the time we have with it," he said.

Nunery said that this tree has already left its mark on the property, noting that "Its massive canopy means, ultimately, the tree has a lot of resources. When a tree has lots of resources, it can produce a lot of seed and is oftentimes the mother tree of many other trees."

Stone family members have likely been the stewards of this tree for half its life and they do not intend on changing that any time soon. "I will be 90 in a month or two and I don't expect to have a big role to play in [the future of the property], but my son intends to use that as his home for the indefinite future and I hope it'll go on beyond that."

The Stone family asks that people respect their privacy if they would like to visit Vermont's Largest Eastern White Pine. Visitors will be welcome if they reach out beforehand to arrange a time. Those interested in viewing the tree can contact John Stone III directly at: 617-686-7305 or e-mail jstone@gmail.com

# POLICE REPORT

## Hardwick Police

### Media Log Summary

April 12: Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 16/Bailey Hazen Rd.; Assist – Agency, Mackville Rd.; Traffic Stop, Dimick Rd.; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 16/Belfry Rd., East Hardwick; Accident – Property Damage Only, N. Main St.; Assist – Public, Daniels Rd.

April 13: Suspicious Event; Citizen Dispute, Highland Ave.; Traffic Stop, Wolcott St.; Traffic Stop, Spring Street.

April 14: Citizen Dispute, Highland Ave.; Threats/Harassment, The Bend Rd.

April 15: VIN Verification, High St.; Accident – Property Damage Only, Vt. Rte. 15W; Assist – Public, Slapp Hill Apt. 3; Lost Property, S. Main St.; Welfare Check, Anair Dr.; TRO/FRO Service, Slapp Hill Rd.; Suspicious Event, Slapp Hill Rd.

April 16: Welfare Check, Cooper Brook Dr.; Suspicious Event, Main St.; Traffic Hazard, Vt. Rte. 16; Citizen Dispute, S. Main St.

April 17: Motor Vehicle Complaint, W. Church St.; Suspicious Event, Pleasant St.; Assist – Motorist, Vt. Rte. 16; Traffic Stop, Country Club Rd., Greensboro; Traffic Stop, Hazen Union Dr.

April 18: Theft, Pumpkin Ln.; Suspicious Event, Shatney Rd., Greensboro; Threats/Harassment, High St.; Traffic Stop, Rte. 15E; Traffic Stop, Vt. Rte. 15; Bunker Hill Rd.; Suspicious Event, Spruce Dr.

April 19: Suspicious Event, Kate Brook Rd., Woodbury.

## Hardwick Police

### Violation of Criminal Suspension, Cell Phone Use While Driving

On April 13, at 2:10 p.m., police observed Warren Gill, of East Montpelier, leave Tops grocery store and get into the driver's seat of a silver Pontiac sedan. Gill was operating the motor vehicle when police made a motor vehicle stop on Wolcott St. Gill was under Criminal Suspension. Gill was issued a citation to appear in Caledonia County Court on May 24 at 10 a.m.

On April 19, at 6:45 p.m., Ronald Touchette, of E. Hardwick, was stopped on Vt. Rte. 15 in Hardwick. Police issued a \$162 ticket for a Cell Phone violation.

This report is based on information provided by the Hardwick Police Department but is not a full accounting of police activity. Persons named in this report are presumed to be innocent unless they plead or are found guilty in court.

## Vermont State Police

### Harley Breer Arrested after Extensive Search

#### Update on Tuesday, April 13

During continued investigation and search efforts for Harley Breer, on Tuesday, April 13 members of the Vermont State Police arrested an uncle of Breer's on suspicion of helping the fugitive evade capture.

Earle Rogers, of Marshfield, is facing charges of accessory after the fact and providing false information to law enforcement. The state police learned through investigation that Rogers allowed Breer to spend several nights at his home while on the run and unsuccessfully attempted to provide money to his nephew.

Rogers was arrested at about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13 at his home on Vermont Route 232 in Marshfield and taken to the Vermont State Police barracks in Middlesex for processing. He was ordered by the court to be jailed for lack of \$2,500 bail and is due to be arraigned at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14 in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in Barre.

Meanwhile, the state police search for Breer remains active and ongoing.

#### Update on Wednesday, April 14, 3:50 p.m.

Shortly before 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, Harley Breer surrendered peacefully to a uniformed Vermont State Police trooper in Marshfield. He was taken into custody without incident.

Throughout the day Wednesday, numerous troopers were searching for Breer in and around Folsom Hill Road and nearby streets in Marshfield. At about 3:15 p.m. Breer emerged from the woods near the home of his uncle Earle Rogers on Vermont Route 232 and approached a uniformed trooper. Breer had his hands in the air and announced he wanted to surrender peacefully. The trooper placed Breer in handcuffs without incident and then called for an ambulance crew to examine Breer, who complained of dehydration. Breer received

water, was checked and cleared by EMS, and then was transported to the Middlesex Barracks for processing on the outstanding arrest warrant on charges of first-degree aggravated domestic assault and resisting arrest.

Breer was jailed for lack of \$100,000 bail Wednesday night at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans Town. Breer is due to be arraigned virtually at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 15 in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in Barre. Members of the media should contact the Court Clerk's Office to confirm details of the proceeding in advance.

The Vermont State Police would like to thank members of the public who provided information during the search for Breer, and all the residents of central Vermont who were patient and alert while the state police operated in the area. VSP also thanks its first responder and law enforcement partners, including U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, which supplied an aircraft to aid in the search effort Wednesday, and the East Montpelier Fire Department for allowing use of its station as a command post.

Following continued investigation, the Vermont State Police has cited Diana Rogers, of Eden, on suspicion of accessory after the fact on allegations she assisted her nephew Harley Breer during his time as a fugitive.

The state police learned through investigation that Rogers allowed Breer to spend one night at her home while there was an active warrant for his arrest. Rogers was cited Friday at her home in Eden and is due to appear for arraignment at 8:30 a.m. April 29 in the Criminal Division of Vermont Superior Court in Barre.

Investigators continue their work on this case and further updates will be provided in the event of any additional developments.

### AWARE Report

HARDWICK – AWARE served seven survivors of domestic and sexual violence from April 4 through April 18. AWARE is a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, dedicated to

resolving the causes and effects of domestic violence and sexual assault in the greater Hardwick area.

The 24-hour hotline is 802-472-6463.



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photo by Jerome Lipani  
 MacNeil and Alexis Smith hang a portion of the Bread and Puppet Calendar Prints Retrospective exhibit at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro. The prints will be on exhibit through the summer of 2021 at the Hardwick Inn and Front Seat Coffee, both on South Main Street in Hardwick.

## Garden

Continued From Page One

The town also submitted an application for roughly \$12,000 of funding for an AARP Community Challenge Grant, recognizing that the grant dovetailed with the goals of the garden: impact on the community. That application is now in the hands of the AARP, with two pages of “deliverables” for the project, many small things that Klein and Martin believe could add up to far more than the sum of their parts.

The proposal calls for eight cedar raised beds, with compost, water, benches, a grill and picnic table, a walking path connecting the gardens and gazebo to the parking lot, some playground equipment and an ice rink.

The project already has inspired a group of Wolcott women volunteers -- more than 25 thus far -- led by Linda Brady. Dubbed “Women of Wolcott” (WOW), the group sees the community garden as its first project. Brady has been a Wolcott resident for over four decades.

She said that “It’s a women’s group, and we all got together and talked about women having someplace to volunteer and work within the community, and to improve the community. We will help with the community garden, and now that the [Lamoille Valley] Rail Trail is coming in, we could just go on from there.”

Klein said, “We’re going to have applications, so that a family can have their own raised bed and will be responsible for planting and harvesting. There will be assistance or guidance. If people need a refresher or a crash course, WOW is here for assistance in how to have a successful garden. But primarily we want families to be able to supplement their food with fresh vegetables. And that’s why we’re also having a help-yourself veggie pantry. Should there be surplus vegetables from either the raised beds or any other gardener in town, those can go into the pantry and all people in Wolcott can help themselves to that. It would be completely free.”

Klein said that in her dual roles working for the town and volunteering for WOW, she requested a donation of compost from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD). The organization donated its maximum (one yard) and WOW purchased five more. The town’s mowing contractor, Brad Blaisdell, who is also an LRSWMD hauler, managed to get all six yards to the garden “in one fell swoop” for \$75.

At Sunday’s groundbreaking, Martin said “[Wolcott] is rich in people with diverse interests and experiences. But I sense in them a longing for a community which has been lacking. They are eager for events to bring us together. Bringing our town library down to our new village center was the first step. It was the vision of Deb Klein and Sally Gardner to begin creating this public space for all of us to enjoy. This community project has brought together many community members eager to make this a success by their volunteerism. It’s just the beginning. New ideas are being developed to further this community space in the surrounding area into a social environment for all of us to enjoy.”

Rep. Dan Noyes (D-Lamoille 2) was at the groundbreaking and said he has lived in Wolcott for close to twenty years. “This is great,” he said, “to have the community together and to have a community garden downtown. And to really think about our village center...it’s great to see this happening.”

Much depends on the success of the AARP Grant and donations, as well as continued efforts by community members to step up and volunteer for the garden. Klein said donations are coming in and “as any gardener knows, you need many tools for a garden to be a success. So, we’re very fortunate to have people come in and joining us to make sure that this will be an ongoing, successful project for years to come.”

To donate or volunteer, people can email WomenOfWolcott@gmail.com or reach Martin or Klein by leaving a message at the town office.

## Forum

Continued From Page One

experience that’s unique to them and really works for them. For those kids, this is going to be a complex transition. For the remaining students, there’s going to be a net gain for time with their teachers and time with each other.”

The school plans to first bring back its ninth and tenth graders. Di Guilio said that “that’s a large group and there are some social and emotional needs that need to be addressed as we enter the building. When we had the 7th and 8th grade [back], we had an uptick in emotional needs and we expect we’ll see the same as we bring other students into the building.”

The first concern raised at the meeting was by student Maryjane Skelton about students who now have jobs. Potter said, “We know that you’ve been committed to jobs for most of the year, so we don’t want to take that away from you, and we know that our goal is to get you working and doing what you want in life. We’ll figure it out.”

Several seniors in the meeting said they should be the first group back, otherwise, they would be essentially returning right as exams started with just a week of school left. School Climate Coordinator Jason Bahner, speaking, he said, on behalf of multiple students, said “What they’re saying is they’re finally feeling comfortable and consistent with the whole remote piece and how the process is working. They know there’s light at the end of the tunnel. They’re feeling this is somewhat rushed and it’s going to be a waste of everybody’s time to force this and rush it. They’re feeling as though by the time we come back and start to get settled, it’s going to be the end of the year. Some of them are feeling unsafe about the process.”

Wednesdays will still be what Di Guilio called a “clean up” day, both literally and in terms of catching up with teachers’ work-

loads. Several in the meeting had other ideas.

Erica Baker, speaking for her son Isaiah, said “he felt like we have a lot to do before [they] can be done with high school.” She said Wednesdays could serve a special purpose for seniors. “[They could] just have a time where they can kind of be together. And maybe there’s a few staff members to check in on them about social-emotional stuff. It would be a great opportunity to get those kids together, get them connected, and they can have the support of their peers and some staff members about getting all those things off their to-do list.” Others, including some seniors, agreed. Senior Deanna Gann spoke about “somewhere we can get together and actually be a class again. After the year, year-and-a quarter we’ve had, we haven’t really had any time at all.”

Perrigo was receptive to the idea, but another complication is the federal government still insists on standardized testing and the only place it can fit is on Wednesdays. When parent Mary Meyer heard that, she said she was “a little alarmed” and Di Guilio said the staff agreed but it was out of their hands. “Speak to your legislator.”

While things could change due to COVID, the current plan is to have a more normal outdoor graduation this year and perhaps even a prom.



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photo by Doug McClure

On late Friday afternoon, the late spring snowfall began to wind down. In Stannard, conditions deteriorated due to mud and four or five inches of snow at elevation 1,880 feet.



photo by Doug McClure

The old schoolhouse near the top of Bridgman Hill in Hardwick, elevation 1,500 feet, had an inch or so of wet snow covering it late Thursday afternoon.

## Select Board Gets Update on Downtown Designation

by Doug McClure

**HARDWICK** – At its April 15 meeting, the select board was briefed by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)’s Gary Holloway on the possibility of a downtown designation. Holloway is the downtown program manager of the ACCD’s Community Planning and Revitalization Division.

The designation would be an upgrade from the village center designation Hardwick has had since 2003 and East Hardwick since 2018. The benefits of the village center designation include technical assistance from the state, tax credits, and priority consideration for state grants and funds.

*A downtown designation could allow speed limits to be set under the state minimum of 25 m.p.h., but Holloway cautioned the benefit was not a guarantee and would require a traffic study and VTrans approval.*

A downtown designation would provide additional prioritization over village designation. Holloway said additional downtown designation benefits include eligibility to apply for the annual \$100,000 downtown transportation fund. The transportation fund has been mentioned in several select board meetings about the pedestrian bridge and promulgated by Shari Cornish.

The application process is more intense than that of the village center designation, Holloway said, and expectations

of the town are higher. He said Hardwick meets “a lot of the checkboxes” for the designation and was “well on its way to meeting many of the requirements.”

The program requires creating or having an entity separate from the town with a sole focus on “the revitalization and preservation of the downtown area.”

Select board chair Eric Remick wanted to know if the town would it retain its village designation should it not meet the standard for a downtown designation. Holloway said yes.

Hardwick in the past had a Downtown Commission, which Remick said “fizzled.” Holloway said the previous downtown commission had been a step in the right direction. “I learned a lot about what the commitment really is and explaining to the people what that is,” Cornish said. “I think we’re in a better place.”

Planning commission chair Dave Gross said that the commission is “very much in favor of this.” Gross added the new Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force could also benefit from the program.

Holloway noted that other benefits of a downtown designation include sales tax reallocation for larger, newer construction projects, Act 250 relief for mixed-income housing, caps on permitting fees, and possible traffic calming measures in the designated area.

A downtown designation could allow speed limits to be set under the state minimum of 25 m.p.h., but Holloway cautioned the benefit was not a guarantee and would require a traffic study and VTrans approval.

The state has 23 designated downtowns with which Hardwick would compete for funding, compared to 206 designated villages with which it currently competes.

Remick wondered if Hardwick would be one of the smallest designated downtowns, and Holloway said it would be, but that Wilmington (population 1,876 according to the 2010 Census) has a downtown designation.

Remick also asked for more information about the EV (electric vehicle) charging station program, which he said was “pretty closely related.” Holloway said that the state had identified six geographic areas where gaps exist in charging infrastructure and indicated that Hardwick was in one of those

areas. He advised the town that if it wanted to be considered for an EV charger under the state program, it should do so quickly, “the sooner the better.”

While Cornish said she wanted to have the application in process “yesterday,” the board decided to draft the resolution and decide “what the commission needs to look like.” Remick didn’t have to ask which member would take on that responsibility, with Cornish quickly stating, “I’m on it.” An update is scheduled for the May 6 select board meeting.



### The Lakeview/Woodbury Principal Search Team

invites parents, guardians and community members to a virtual forum to meet the three principal finalists on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 27 to 29 at 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. - Annsunee Swift**

Link [meet.google.com/wqf-mnco-oxe](https://meet.google.com/wqf-mnco-oxe)

Join by phone (US) +1 650-449-9429 PIN: 349 793 379#

**Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. - Lisa McCarthy**

Link [meet.google.com/tdu-zuog-vef](https://meet.google.com/tdu-zuog-vef)

Join by phone (US) +1 402-665-0474 PIN: 352 104 050#

**Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m. - Kerri Wyman**

Link [meet.google.com/bbw-ccvb-daa](https://meet.google.com/bbw-ccvb-daa)

Join by phone (US) +1 219-243-0745 PIN: 521 213 589#

Annsunee Swift is currently an Instructional Math Coach at Mount Abraham Unified School District. She has prior experience as an elementary principal to fill in for a half year leave of absence, and an elementary classroom teacher. She has a Master of Science in Teaching from the University of Vermont, and a Bachelor’s of Education from Castleton State College. Her most recent coursework has been in Educational Leadership at the Upper Valley Educators Institute.

Lisa McCarthy is currently in the position of Coordinator of Social Cognition PK-12 for the Williamstown School District. She has had prior experience as a Psychotherapist, and School Counselor and Social Coach. She has a Master of Education from Montana State University and a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish and Environmental Studies from Saint Lawrence University. Lisa will complete the Principal Internship Program with a Specialization in Curriculum and Instruction through Upper Valley Educators Institute.

Kerri Wyman is currently the Assistant Principal at RSU64 in Corinth, Maine. She has prior experience as an elementary school principal, a middle and high school science teacher, and a data coach. She has a Certificate of Advanced Educational Studies in Educational Leadership from the University of Maine, a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Maine.

Please provide input for the Principal candidates that visited the Lakeview and Woodbury Schools through this brief survey:

**Principal Feedback Form**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLU-jh47J4Uz\\_dB8AnQ08-xTJFqGN4dvWf17vV5Hl1tkxfQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLU-jh47J4Uz_dB8AnQ08-xTJFqGN4dvWf17vV5Hl1tkxfQ/viewform)

# Select Board Tackles Multi-faceted Agenda

by June Pichel Cook

CRAFTSBURY – The select board dispatched a multi-faceted agenda last Tuesday, ranging from emergency management, highway state aid, and open meeting law to approving weight and liquor licenses and Common permits. The board meets in-person and via Zoom.

The emergency management plan discussion opened the meeting and how the Neighbor-2-Neighbor task force should fit into the condensed version.

Board co-chair Bruce Urie said he worked with Bruce Melendy from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), who recommended that the task force be placed in the expanded version of the plan.

Penelope Doherty, who was present, suggested it be included in the condensed version under the food section. She explained that state aid for reimbursements can range from 7.5% to 17.5% if certain requirements are met. The town has been working to meet those requirements, which do not address small communities but are geared to larger entities.

Fire Chief Eric Britton reported that the fire department is working on current antenna placement, or additional antennae, to improve communication coverage throughout the town.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and opportunities it provides to the community were discussed.

Sterling College has applied for a grant that involves the Wellness Center, Sterling College/Craftsbury Saplings/Food Share/

Post Office project. The decision on the grant application will be known by April 20.

In other business, the board signed a letter of support for Sterling College's refurbishing of Simpson Hall. The letter was needed under ACT 250 requirements. Planning commission chair Farley Brown said the refurbishments will not impact any historical features of the building. The building is being refurbished to make it more handicap accessible.

In discussion of grants, both co-chairs Urie and Jim Jones felt the town should not be investing in "frivolous" grants costing the town unnecessary money later.

The board talked of establishing a community development coordinator position and researching potential grants under ARPA. Brown, as planning commission chair, will research further.

The recent planning commission grant application was not successful and whether funds appropriated at the annual meeting could be directed to another grant was discussed. No decisions were made.

Urie said that the town may receive between \$120,000 and \$180,000 for aid in highway paving. The plan is to pave 2.3 miles from the East Craftsbury town line to Aleta Akerlind's driveway. An additional 950 feet of paving will be done on either end of the Common.

Open meeting law compliance was discussed. Board clerk Michelle Warren is working with board member Susie Houston on a one-page information sheet for all town committees to provide guidance in ensuring compliance.

The board approved the village improvement committee's request for use of the Common to hold four concerts: June 27, Radio Rangers; July 18, Beg, Steal or Borrow; August 8, Mango Jam; and August 22, Vt. Bluegrass Pioneers. The board approved a request from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center to hold a running event, on August 21, 2021, with 100 to 150 runners.

Two appointments were made to the World War II memorial committee: John Zaber and Eric Britton; Suzanne Griffiths was appointed Green-Up Day coordinator. The conservation commission has a vacancy and is seeking a candidate for that opening.

A property on East Craftsbury Road, which is for sale at \$110,000, was discussed briefly. The board had been contacted as to its interest for a possible town hall site; Brown was asked to place the question on the planning commission's agenda for discussion.

Houston reported that the conservation commission hosted

Jens Hilke from Vermont Fish and Wildlife who presented information on Vermont ACT 171 regarding wildlife connectivity corridors and habitats impacted by parcelization of large forest blocks. ACT 171 needs to be addressed in the next town plan. Breaking up of large forest blocks and disrupting wildlife corridors and habitats is a growing issue in the state.

The energy committee will be re-instating its window dresser project which was placed on hold last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board scheduled June 5 as rubbish "Bulky Day," which gives residents an opportunity to remove large items, i.e., barn plastic, sofas, and furniture. Doherty will check with the Lamoille Region Solid Waste Management District for what is allowed and dumpster prices. Urie will check with Austin Rubbish.

The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. in the town hall and via Zoom.

## Bob Bell Congratulated by Select Board

WALDEN – The Walden Select Board met at the town office on Monday, April 12. Present were Brenda Huntoon and Randolph Wilson in person and Liz Wilkel, Caro Thompson, and Steve Gorelick via Zoom.

The board congratulated Bob Bell for 32 years of working for the town.

The school vote will be May 4. Ballots have been mailed to all voters and polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may vote by mail or drop off their ballot at the town clerk's office.

Green Up Day is May 1. Green up bags are available in a bin outside of the town clerk's office and filled bags can be set near the garbage bins at the town garage.

The cemetery commission received four bids for the cemetery mowing. They accepted the bid from Jeff Badore.

Liz Wilkel, representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District reported to the board on her attendance at the monthly meeting. She noted that trash haulers are required to take recycling and that All Metals, Perry's, and Black Dirt Farm take food scraps.

Caro Thompson, representative to Communications Union District (CUD), reported that the next meeting is on May 11 and if a town resident wants to be an alternate or primary representative, they should call a board members or the town clerk.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Lakeview third grader Sadie Keith, 9, looks over her newly hatched chickens Wednesday at school. She and her grandmother Della Hall, a paraeducator at the school, brought 12 fertilized eggs to her classroom. The class learned all about chickens and how they hatch. After 21 days of being in an incubator, they were born and will return home to be united with their moms at the April school break.

# Board Debates Crosswalk Safety, Parking

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The select board discussed painting crosswalks and parking spaces at its April 15 meeting. Discussion of additional recommendations from the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force, including signage, were postponed until after a meeting with VTrans can take place.

The focus of the discussion centered on safety and parking. The parking spaces were previously found to be noncompliant with state law, roads foreman Tom Fadden said. To comply with statute, parking spaces next to the crosswalks must be eliminated, with a clearance of 20 feet from the crosswalk without buffers or 10 feet with buffers. Removing the spaces would reduce parking capacity by about one dozen spaces, Fadden said.

Fadden said VTrans will meet with the town in advance of performing major paving work it has planned in the village for 2022. “We don’t want to do anything too drastic with downtown until we have the meeting with VTrans and see exactly what they’re going to do,” he said.

The last time VTrans paved in town was about two decades ago, Fadden said, when it repaved South Main and Mill streets.

Town Manager Shaun Fielder said that due to traffic volume, “the state has some say” in the town’s crosswalks and parking spaces and might step in if it disagrees with the board’s decisions.

Board member Michael Deering, who described the crosswalks as “absolutely atrocious,” said the current crosswalk configuration was “an incredible hazard” but the loss of spaces to would exacerbate “a very serious

parking problem.” He proposed a solution that he acknowledged would be next to impossible, a “two-story garage.” Deering said “We have to come up with some kind of better solution [than we have now]. Taking away spots is going to drive people away and taking away spots is going to the pedestrians much safer. The way [the crosswalks] are now is absolutely atrocious.”

Vice chair Ceilidh Galloway-Kane said, “We do have plenty of parking, it’s just not necessarily obvious.”

Board member Shari Cornish said she felt “a big visual change” in the design of the crosswalks was needed for safety reasons. “Maybe with white on the outside and red in the middle or yellow in the middle,” she said. “That impact might be good, [drivers] would say ‘oh wait this is different.’”

Chair Eric Remick said he was accustomed to the current crosswalks and “sometimes something that’s old is what’s recognized.” The Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force previously recommended multi-colored crosswalks, based on AOT data.

The board decided the AOT-approved color in the task force’s example photo would be called “rust”.

The board will use the new color combination for crosswalks in the village on South Main and Mill Street, while other crosswalks will receive a standard paint job. In further discussion about parking, two additional spaces were found poorly placed for line-of-sight, and spaces in front of the Clip Joint were found to impinge on the crosswalks. Ideas for prohibiting parking in the noncompliant spaces included painting lines in the spaces or filling them with planters or other barriers.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Wolcott sixth graders Isabella Maldonado (left) and Alexa Potter (right) work on constructing a prosthetic hand using simple classroom materials. Students in Sonya Shedd’s class designed, sketched and constructed their idea for a prosthetic hand after learning about the human skeletal and muscular system.

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photo by Vanessa Fournier  
 Hazen middle schooler Mattie Mercier waits for food service manager Patti Foster (right), to serve her lunch Friday. At left is Finn Burgess. At back right are food service staff Christine Shatney and Linda Bolio. Since COVID-19 and after December break, lunch has been served to middle schoolers in the hallway and they return to their classrooms to eat. After April vacation, the students will return to the cafeteria line to pick up their lunches but will still return to their classroom to eat.

## Is Food Still Saving our Towns? Cabot Cheese, Collaboration and Hardwick Connections

by Anna Kolosky

HARDWICK – Located 13 miles away from Hardwick, the Cabot cheese plant has been an integral part of the region for more than 100 years. Now a much larger operation, with Cabot farms dotting the hillsides of the Northeast Kingdom, Cabot Creamery Co-operative has managed to expand while honoring its local roots.

According to Erica Burke, Cabot's retail stores general manager, the creamery has a strong connection to Hardwick that dates back to its earliest days.

"We celebrated our centennial in 2019 and take great pride in being a long-time partner, champion and contributor to the local communities and towns where our employees live and farm families farm," Burke said. "Hardwick is a vibrant community with lots of new and interesting things happening and we'd love to be a part of all that excitement and growth."

In addition to the company's connection to Hardwick, Cabot Creamery has also worked collaboratively with other local farms like Jasper Hill Farm, Burke stated. Jasper Hill Farm provided Cabot Cheese with the necessary cave space and expertise to help Cabot produce cave-aged cheese, she added.

"We asked if they could help produce an artisanal cheese using Cabot cheddar wheels," Burke said. "Cabot had never produced a cave-aged cheese, and Jasper Hill hadn't been doing it for a very long at

that time, but their skillful affinage yielded the Cabot Clothbound Cheddar that has won first place in many national and international competitions."

Cabot Cheese has recently signed up, along with Jasper Hill Farm, to join the Hardwick Yellow Barn Project, Burke said. The Center for an Agricultural Economy is partnering with the town of Hardwick to renovate Hardwick's historic Yellow Barn into a local food hub and farmers' market.

"Cabot has wanted to be a part of the Yellow Barn project since it was first described to us," Erica Burke said. "Cabot Co-op is completely owned by farming families and we want to be involved with the Yellow Barn to help support the local farm and food-based economy in our region."

Traditionally, Cabot's stores have primarily been in places where visitors can sample products, learn about Cabot and find great local products to purchase. With the Yellow Barn Project, Cabot hopes to provide a more immersive experience with its products, Burke added.

"Even though Cabot Cheese is available nationwide, folks want to travel to Vermont, to become immersed in our culture and our roots, and to see the land and the hard-working people that inspired the Creamery and our award-winning products," Burke said. "With all that Hardwick has to offer already, we know the Yellow Barn is going to be a premier attraction, whether visitors come by road or the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail."

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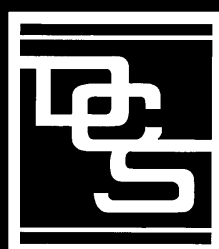
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# Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday

by Doug McClure

**HARDWICK** – Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Chief Aaron Cochran told the select board at its April 15 meeting that thanks to the “persistent” efforts of Officer Donnie Jenness, the department had received a “little over \$10,000” from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program. Previously, it seemed as if HPD would not receive those funds as it had in the past.

Cochran reminded the public that this Saturday is a bi-annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Prescription pills can be dropped off at HPD. The department only takes pills, no sharps and no liquids.

Greensboro’s decision to change law enforcement providers will see HPD stop patrols to Hardwick-owned Caspian Lake Beach after June 30. The Orleans County Sheriff’s Department (OCSD) will be taking over patrols in the town. Chief Cochran said because the beach is surrounded by Greensboro, he hopes OCSD is vigilant to keep the gains he said HPD patrols have made over the years.

“It is a no-alcohol beach due to the incidents that were going on [before],” said Chief Cochran. “It’s something we need to think about and make sure it’s being patrolled. It’s our beach and our liability. My concern is no underage drinking, no alcohol.”

The select board approved part-time hire Zachary Willey, who will continue to work part-time for the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department.

The town is starting to think about bringing the village into spring mode. Trash cans are set to be put out this week. Board member Shari Cornish lobbied for investigating a porta-potty. While the usual park tables will also be out soon, it was undecided whether to return to having tables in the town parking lot by the Hardwick Village Restaurant like last year. Barring unforeseen changes, the COVID restrictions that prompted the tables’ placement are largely lifted. While the board had mixed views as to whether

the tables were necessary, Town Manager Shaun Fielder said that Hardwick Village Restaurant owner Lynn DeLaricheliere “has commented in favor” of bringing the tables back out.

In other spring news, the town is picking up where it left off on researching disused springs north of Renaud Road as a potential alternate source of water. Hardwick remains in a moderate drought despite recent rains. Fielder said that “We’re lucky we’ve got two good water sources, but they’re close to one another.” While neither Hardwick nor the East Hardwick Fire District is reporting concerns over current water levels, Fielder said “if the drought continues, it’s going to be a problem for all of us.” There was a brief review of how Hardwick could, in a worst-case scenario, treat water pumped from the Lamoille River.

The board awarded roofing bids for both the Depot and the Public Safety Building (PSB) to Laraway Mountain Construction of Waterville. Laraway bid \$23,000 for the PSB and \$22,400 for the Depot.

This fate of this year’s fireworks was brought up, and the concerns this time around were not pandemic-related. Fielder pointed out that money was left over from last year that needed to be used. Board member Michael Deering said the board should heed the advice of the fire warden in making a decision, noting that though “a lot could change between now and then, we could have a deluge.” Chair Eric Remick agreed that the primary concern this year is not COVID, but fire.

Remick said that he has had ongoing talks with Jon Jewett about the interim town manager position. There is a “general understanding of the terms” and he has emailed Jewett a draft contract.

With the loosening of COVID restrictions, the town offices are now open more. Requirements about masks and distancing are still in force, but the town is “trying to transition back to a new normal, back to more visitors [in town offices].” For details, see [hardwickvt.org](http://hardwickvt.org).



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Wolcott music teacher Kim Beckley plays a ukulele for third graders Llana Draper (left), Gavin Houle (center), and Trent Demers (right) during class on April 14.



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Hazen Union high school chorus was able to resume singing in person on March 5 while following COVID safety guidelines: wearing masks, standing six feet apart, and only singing for 30 minutes during class time. Pictured are chorus members (left to right) Alex Aubuchon, Carter Hill, Ryker Willett, choral director Talan Bryant, Deanna Gann, Olie Grant and Nicole Thomas.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE** **OF INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDE**

A permit has been applied for through the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food & Markets, by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. for the purpose of making a selective ground-based application of herbicides: Accord, Rodeo (Glyphosate), Arsenal (Imazapyr), Escort XP (Metsulfuron Methyl), Garlon 4, Garlon 4 Ultra (Triclopyr), Polaris (Imazapyr), Habitat (Imazapyr) and Krenite S (Ammonium Salt of Fosamine) on their 230,000 and 115,000 volt transmission line rights-of-way located in the following towns:

### **Caledonia County**

Waterford, St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Sutton, Sheffield, Barnet, Ryegate, Groton.

**The application will start on May 31, 2021.**

Landowners adjacent to the areas to be treated should contact Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) if private water supplies or other environmentally sensitive areas are located within 100 feet of the right-of-way. For further information

**Contact** Scott Carlson  
Forester/Utility Arborist  
Vermont Electric Power Co. Inc.  
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road  
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(802) 353-3584

The state agency to contact with questions or comments is:

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## **The Town of Greensboro is accepting bids for the following:**

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The select board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

# Springtime in the North Country



The Easter bunny shows an egg to twins Reed (center) and Windsor Bahner (right), 3, of Hardwick during the Easter Egg Hunt held April 17 at Hazen. Four thousand one hundred plastic eggs containing candy were placed on Hudson Field by the Hardwick Recreation Committee and many volunteers.



Morgan Colpron, 3, of Hardwick checks out one of the approximately 4,100 candy-filled plastic eggs spread out on Hudson Field Saturday for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Hardwick Recreation Committee. The event was postponed until April 17 because of COVID-19.



Children race up Hudson Field April 17 to gather some of the 4,100 candy-filled eggs that were placed there by the Hardwick Recreation Committee and volunteers. The April 3 event was postponed to Saturday because of COVID-19.



The daffodils at Wolcott School last week were looking very springy. A coat of snow is predicted for this week.



Wolcott third grader Llana Draper checks the soil around one of the many plants that her class started after Town Meeting day. The plants were all brought outside on April 14 for the first time on National Gardening Day. The students in Mosie Hill's class will bring the plants home for Mother's Day. The Wolcott School gardening program helped the class to buy the soil and seeds for the project.

photos  
by  
**Vanessa Fournier**

# OUR COMMUNITIES

## Healthy Lamoille Valley's May Coalition Meeting May 4

MORRISVILLE – Healthy Lamoille Valley's May Coalition Meeting will be held May 4, from 6 to 7 p.m. Meetings are on Zoom and accommodations are available. Contact Jessica at [jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org](mailto:jessica@healthylamoillevalley.org) for questions or requests. Learn more and register in advance at [healthylamoillevalley.org/may-meeting](http://healthylamoillevalley.org/may-meeting).

The meeting will focus on summer celebrations and get-togethers, and making events youth- and recovery-friendly, and will give tips for hosting fun parties without a focus on substances and explore ways to ensure that youth cannot access alcohol and other adult-use substances at home and community gatherings.

### WARNING

#### Caledonia Cooperative School District

##### Informational Hearing

The legal voters of the Caledonia Cooperative School District, composed of the voters of the Towns of Barnet, Walden, and Waterford, are hereby notified and warned to meet April 28, at 6 p.m. in an electronic forum (to be warned separately) for an informational hearing on the following articles of business.

##### Australian Ballot Vote

The legal voters of the Caledonia Cooperative School District are hereby notified and warned to vote on the fourth day of May, 2021, by Australian Ballot during the hours indicated below, upon the following articles of business at the following locations:

Voters from the town of Barnet: Fire and Rescue Station, 151 Bimson Drive, Barnet, Vt., from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters from the town of Walden: Town Clerk's Office, 12 Vt. Rte. 215, Walden, Vt., from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters from the town of Waterford: Town Fire Station, 2661 Duck Pond Rd., Waterford, Vt., from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Absentee ballots may be requested until the closing of the town clerk's office on Monday May 3rd. There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to <https://mvp.vermont.gov>.

**Article 1:** To elect a School District Moderator for a term of one year.

**Article 2:** To elect one School Director from Barnet for a term of three years.

**Article 3:** To elect one School Director from Walden for two years, to serve out a three-year term filled by appointment in 2020.

**Article 4:** To elect one School Director from Walden for a term of three years.

**Article 5:** To elect one School Director from Waterford for a term of three years.

**Article 6:** To elect a School District Treasurer for a term of one year.

**Article 7:** To elect a School District Clerk for a term of one year.

**Article 8:** Shall the voters of the Caledonia Cooperative School District vote to authorize the Caledonia Cooperative School Board to expend eleven million eight-hundred forty-three thousand five hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$11,843,538.00) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the 2021-2022 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,432 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.05% higher than spending for the current year.

**Article 9:** Shall the voters of the Caledonia Cooperative School District vote to authorize the Caledonia Cooperative School Board to borrow money with which to pay its lawful debts and expenses for the fiscal year 2021 - 2022, in an amount not to exceed 90% of the anticipated collection of taxes and the receipt of other funds to be used for those purposes?

**Article 10:** Commencing in 2022, shall the Caledonia Cooperative School District hold its annual meeting on the first Tuesday in April?

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Caledonia Cooperative School District Board of Directors:  
Lynette Farnham, Chair, Heather Gonyaw, Vice Chair,  
Judith Clifford, James Hemond, Jennifer D'Agostino,  
David Warden, Susan Roberts,  
Hannah Goguen, Jessica Roy

Recorded and Posted at Barnet, Vermont this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Robert Farlice-Rubio, School District Clerk



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Lakeview Principal Justine Guthrie walks with students to their vehicles during end of school dismissal. At right is 3rd grader Alizabeth Chernovetz.

### OUR E-MAILS

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# OBITUARIES

## GARY G. BELLAVANCE

HARDWICK – Gary G. Bellavance, 58, of Hardwick passed away on Friday, April 16. A full obituary may be viewed at [dgfunerals.com](http://dgfunerals.com). Due to COVID, visiting hours will be private only for family at the des Groseilliers Funeral Home on Friday, April 23.

Friends and community members wishing to share in Christian prayer to honor Gary's life are invited to join for his burial at Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, June 11 at 11 a.m. with adherence to mask and distancing guidelines.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Gary's memory may be made to Hazen Union School's Athletic Department, PO Box 368, Hardwick, VT 05843. Condolences and memories may be conveyed to



*Gary G. Bellavance*  
the family online at [dgfunerals.com](http://dgfunerals.com).



*photo by Doug McClure*  
The northwestern sky over Stannard and the Perseus constellation with several star clusters visible. The Double Cluster is about a quarter of the way down and near the center, and the Dragonfly Cluster is at the edge of the trees on upper right.

**The Hardwick Gazette**

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# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

## Thursday, April 22

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

**GRACE FREE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**. Free online art class every Thursday, 1 - 3 p.m. Join at <https://meet.jit.si/GRACECommunityWorkshop>. Free materials kit available for pickup or delivery. Information: [carol@wonderartsvt.org](mailto:carol@wonderartsvt.org) or 802-472-6857.

**PARENT CAFE SERIES**, hosted by Healthy Lamoille Valley, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. A monthly gathering designed to highlight a community resource or parenting skill and encourage conversation with other parents/caregivers. Preregistration and information: [healthylamoillevalley.org/parent-cafe-series](http://healthylamoillevalley.org/parent-cafe-series).

## Friday, April 23

**BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil**, 5 - 6 p.m., Fridays, Peace Park, Hardwick. All welcome.

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com). Sets at [highlandartsvt.com](http://highlandartsvt.com).

**EVERYONE EATS PROGRAM**, free frozen meal, Fridays, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., Wolcott United Methodist Church, 4023 Vt. Rt. 15. No pre-registration needed. Information: [ereid@capstonevt.org](mailto:ereid@capstonevt.org).

## Saturday, April 24

**BLACK LIVES MATTER/Peace and Justice Vigil**, 3 - 5 p.m., Saturdays, South Main at Wolcott Street, Hardwick. All welcome.

## Monday, April 26

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**, Mondays, 6 p.m., Touch of Grace AG Church, 104 Vt. Rt. 16, E. Hardwick. Men's Addiction Group. Information: 802-279-2185.

**GRACE** presents free, virtual weekly art prompts. Each week GRACE will post a piece of art from their "Outsider Art" collection for people to use as inspiration for their own original creation. These will be available on Mondays at <https://graceart.org/virtual-artcommunity/>

virtual-art-prompts/ with responses due by Sunday evenings. Email responses to [AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org](mailto:AmeriCorpsVista@WonderArtsVT.org).

## Tuesday, April 27

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

**THE DADS' GROUP**, every Tuesday, 8-9 p.m., on Zoom. A great place to connect with other Dads. Information and link to the Zoom meeting: Rob at [rcary@LRCVT.org](mailto:rcary@LRCVT.org) or 802-730-3000. **THE MOMS IN RECOVERY** Support Program, tailored to support pregnant and parenting mothers and their families. In person, every Tuesday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., North Central Vermont Recovery Center, 275 Brooklyn St., Suite 2, Morrisville. Information: [crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com](mailto:crystal.morrissey@ncvrc.com), 802-635-0084.

## Wednesday, April 28

**JAQUITH PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 122 School St., Rm. 2., Marshfield, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - noon and 3 - 6 p.m. Curbside service only. Home deliveries available for senior citizens within a 10 mile radius. Information: 802-426-3581 or [jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:jaquithpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

**EAST HARDWICK GRANGE SUPPER**, a free meal for the community, Wednesdays, 5 - 6 p.m. Caledonia Grange #9, 88 East Church St., East Hardwick. A curbside dinner for the whole family to enjoy. Information or delivery: [easthardwickgrange@gmail.com](mailto:easthardwickgrange@gmail.com) or 472-8987.

## Exhibits

**MARTHA ELMES**: Relief Prints, Collage Assemblage and Block Prints on exhibit at the Parker Pie Gallery, West Glover, through May 26. Information: 802-525-3366.

**1111 COPPER NAILS**: Bread & Puppet Calendar Prints - A 36-Year Retrospective, a Dual Location Exhibition in Hardwick, through the Summer. The Hardwick Inn, 4 S. Main St., Exhibit on all 3 floors, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Sat. Front Seat Coffee, 101 S. Main St., B&P Calendars and Art for sale, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon. - Fri. Information: [VtPieGirlCo@gmail.com](mailto:VtPieGirlCo@gmail.com), [oliveylin1@gmail.com](mailto:oliveylin1@gmail.com) or [BreadandPuppet.org](http://BreadandPuppet.org).

**To get your event listed free in our weekly events calendar, please e-mail: [news@hardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@hardwickgazette.com).**



courtesy photo

"Blue Fins of Freedom" by Asheley Kapelewski.

## New Beginnings Exhibit at River Arts through July 13

MORRISVILLE – River Arts is presently holding the annual juried spring show for the Vermont Watercolor Society. This will be on exhibit in the Foley Hall Gallery and Copley Common Room Gallery at River Arts through July 13. Gallery hours are Mondays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

The theme prompted member artists to reflect on new beginnings. Members interpreted this theme to depict the transition from winter to spring, budding spring fauna and flora, a new year, a new life or a new outlook on life. New Beginnings displays an exemplar celebration of the watercolor and is on display in both the Foley Hall Gallery and the Copley Common Room.

The Vermont Watercolor Society was founded by a small group of painters in 1995 and today is over 240 members strong, offering three levels of membership. The society is dedicated to promoting the awareness and appreciation of watercolor to their membership of all levels of ability and to the community by providing opportunities and venues for participation, education, fellowship, and exhibitions.

River Arts is physically accessible for participants who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids, and those who prefer not to use stairs. Questions regarding accessibility may be addressed to Heidi at (802) 888-1261 or [Heidi@RiverArtsVT.org](mailto:Heidi@RiverArtsVT.org). For more information call (802) 888-1261 or visit [riverartsvt.org](http://riverartsvt.org).

## LCP Plans Auditions for "Annie"

HYDE PARK – Auditions for the Lamoille County Players' (LCP) musical comedy "Annie" will take place May 1 and 2 at the Hyde Park Opera House. Auditioners are being asked to schedule a specific time to audition.

This is just one of the many procedures Lamoille County Players has in place to make auditions, rehearsals, and performances all meet or exceed the Governor's "Vermont Forward" plan. The link to schedule an audition, and for details of LCP's plans, are at [LCPlayers.com/annie](http://LCPlayers.com/annie).

Co-Director and Music Director Patricia Jacob of Jeffersonville, Co-Director and Music Director Kenny Grenier of Eden, and Producer Gail Patrice Deuso of Hyde Park have been working on detailed plans to safely and responsibly bring community theater back to the stage.

"Annie" had been chosen by LCP for the summer production of 2020, but the pandemic put those plans on hold. As the show's

famous song says, "The sun will come out tomorrow."

"We can all absorb a bit of Little Orphan Annie's optimism," says Jacob.

Deuso explains that auditioners are asked to sign up online for a one-hour block of time, either May 1 or 2 and to print out the audition form (available on [LCPlayers.com/annie](http://LCPlayers.com/annie)) and fill it out ahead of time. Blank forms will be available at the door, if needed. LCP will also provide KN95 masks and hand sanitizer at the door.

Looking ahead to the performances, Jacob explains that there will be "no live audiences this time." Instead, LCP will film multiple, live performances of the production from July 30 through August 1. Everyone will be masked and distanced throughout the production, following the "Vermont Forward" plan. There will be a live pit band to accompany the performances. The recordings will be available for ticketed, streaming viewing in late August.

We welcome VISA and MasterCard for subscriptions and advertising.



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# Rural Ramblings

## Spring Cleaning Reveals a Rucksack Mystery

by Jim Flint

CRAFTSBURY – For many Vermonters, the pandemic spurred a wave of home cleanup and improvement projects. Last spring, I took on the garage of our house in Craftsbury Village, cleaning my way from front to back. After sorting a tangled assortment of garden supplies and sweeping the floor, I looked toward the rafters. Something caught the corner of my eye.

Using a step ladder, I reached up and pulled down a dusty old rucksack. The outside of the canvas bag had a Boy Scouts of America emblem. Below the emblem were the letters LIEN printed in red. I carefully loosened the straps of the vintage pack. Inside was a collection of scouting gear which included an aluminum canteen, a mess kit, and a supply pouch filled with personal care items.

I wondered who the rucksack belonged to and how it ended up stored in our garage. The first clue was soon revealed: an identification card signed by Donald S. Lien, Division 6, Regiment 159, Company 13.

Being curious, I searched the internet. I found Donald's brother, Ralph Lien, who lives in North Carolina, and talked with him by phone. Ralph indicated that his brother was still alive and living in a nursing home in Florida. I attempted to reach Donald by phone but was unable to get through.

Ralph Lien explained to me that his parents owned an inn for several years on Craftsbury Common. Donald spent summers in Craftsbury as a young adult, helping out at the inn. Donald also took on jobs as an interior decorator. He wallpapered and painted for local people. I pondered whether Donald may have done work at our house in Craftsbury Village.

My research paused until March 2021, when I learned that



photo by Jim Flint

The collapsible aluminum water cup's lid is embossed with a scouting scene.

several decades of Hardwick Gazette newspapers are available in digital form. The Gazette archives can be searched through the website, newspapers.com. During the 19th and 20th centuries, each town covered by the Gazette had a social correspondent who shared about the comings and goings of residents and visitors.

Searching the digital archives for Donald S. Lien revealed more clues. After a stint in the U.S. Army, Donald spent summers in Craftsbury from 1949 to 1972. He coordinated Craftsbury's town baseball team and acted in the town's summer Shakespeare performances, which were directed by the legendary Miss Jean Simpson. Donald also helped to organize the games of skill at Craftsbury's annual Old Home Day celebration.

Digging deeper into the archives, I learned that Donald's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lien, came to Craftsbury from New Brunswick, N.J. Mr. Lien was a chef at Rutgers University, where Mrs. Lien also worked. In the spring of 1948, the Liens purchased the Hearthside Inn on Craftsbury Common. They ran the



photo by Jim Flint

This Boy Scout canvas rucksack from the early 1940s was discovered in the rafters of a garage in Craftsbury Village.

inn for ten years. In the spring of 1958, Hearthside was purchased by Sterling School, the predecessor of Sterling College. The inn became Sterling's Admissions Building and still serves that purpose.

On June 5, 1958, the local news correspondent reported that Mrs. Lien packed her possessions from the Hearthside Inn and moved to East Craftsbury for the summer. The Liens returned to Craftsbury for the next five summers, staying in different places. The sale of the Hearthside Inn may explain how Donald Lien's rucksack found its way to Craftsbury Village.

My wife Barb and I live on the



photo by Jim Flint

The rucksack's contents (clockwise from the lower left): mess kit/fry pan, aluminum canteen and cup, mirror, stainless steel salt shaker, collapsible cup, shoe brush, cup lid, soap container, sewing kit, and coin purse.

corner of Cemetery Road, adjacent to the Craftsbury General Store. From the time that it was built in 1931 until the summer of 1975, our Cape Cod house had a large unfinished attic. A search of the Craftsbury land records determined that the house was vacant between owners during the early summer of 1963. This was also Mr. and Mrs. Lien's last summer in Craftsbury. Perhaps Donald or his parents conveniently stored a few possessions in the attic. The tan rucksack could have easily been left behind.

A clue provided by my neighbor, Bob Brown, led to Kent Young, who works for the Town of Craftsbury. Kent shared with me that he helped his dad, Henry Young, build the garage during the summer of 1975. The crew also raised the back roof of the house, added a shed dormer, and turned the attic into living space.

During the construction process, Donald Lien's Boy Scout rucksack was likely discovered in the eaves of the attic. Henry Young was an industrial arts teacher at Lamoille Union High



photo by Jim Flint

A scout's sewing kit with thread, scissors, and buttons.



photo by Jim Flint

Donald Lien's leather coin purse.

School. He would have recognized the rucksack as having intrinsic value. Perhaps Henry tucked it up in the rafters of the garage for safekeeping. And there the pack stayed for 45 more years, waiting for its mysterious origin to be pondered anew.

Do you have a comment about this story? Please email the author at jimflintvt@gmail.com to share your thoughts.

# Legislative Report

## Updating the State Legislative Session

by Katherine Sims, State Representative, Orleans-Caledonia

As we race towards the end of the legislative session, I'm writing with an update about what's happening at the statehouse and how it affects you.

Bills passed out of the house: There's \$2.7 billion in federal funding earmarked for Vermont, including \$1.3 billion to be spent at the state's discretion over the next 45 months. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make high-impact investments that advance priorities for our future in every corner of the state.

Since March, the Vermont House has passed significant legislation in the following areas: modernizing our infrastructure, investing in working families and seniors, investing in education for all, revitalizing our communities, and rebuilding our rural economy and creating jobs

Find a detailed summary of the bills passed and where the investments would be directed at [katherinesimsforhouse.com/news](http://katherinesimsforhouse.com/news).

As we continue to invest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in our state, our strategies must be optimized for rural communities because rural regions matter and when we invest in rural areas, we invest in good food, clean water and energy, healthy soil, quality education and healthcare, jobs and opportunities for all.

Bills coming from the Vermont Senate: To become a law this year, a bill must pass both the House and Senate, and then be signed into law by the Governor. The House is now taking up a number of bills from the Senate including:

S.13 creates a task force to implement the recommendations from the Pupil Weighting study. Vermont's formula for funding public education has been short-changing rural schools for decades and this bill is an important step forward to addressing those inequities. I am working with other legislators to strengthen the bill so that it results in a plan to implement the weights and provide immediate relief to communities that are hurting by suspending the excess spending threshold.

S.79 is an act to improve rental housing and health. The bill moves responsibility for inspecting rental housing from the health department to the department of fire safety, establishes a state-wide rental registry that is supported

through registration fees (at \$35 per unit), increases rental units through grants or loans to improve units that are currently offline, and establishes a revolving fund to provide mortgage assistance to first-time homebuyers.

S.20 is a bill that would ban toxic PFAS chemicals from food packaging, firefighting foam, carpets and rugs, and more, to protect Vermonters and Vermont's environment and water from exposure to harmful chemicals.

S.15 would make universal vote-by-mail a permanent feature of Vermont's elections. Whether or not Vermonters choose to vote in person on election day or vote by mail is ultimately their choice, but this bill increases access to voting -- a crucial part of a healthy democracy.

Prop 5, a proposal to amend Vermont's constitution to guarantee personal reproductive liberty, was approved by the full Senate on a vote of 26-4. The proposal will next move to the House for a vote, and then will be up for a vote on the ballot by Vermonters in 2022.

Other general updates: Eugenics Apology -- On March 30, the House of Representatives passed J.R.H.2, which apologizes and takes full accountability for its role in the immeasurable harm that was caused as a result of the state-sanctioned eugenics movement in Vermont. Rep. Tom Stevens, Chair of the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, gave a very informative and moving floor report about the history of the eugenics movement in Vermont and the importance of the resolution. You can listen to his report at [youtube.com/watch?v=GhrmKVRZF0c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhrmKVRZF0c) starting at minute 8.

Property Taxes -- The House passed H.152, the "Yield Bill," which establishes statewide property tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year. The news is far better than expected: thanks to federal funds, higher than projected sales tax revenues, and conservative school budgets, this year's rates are not only far less than originally projected, but also a bit lower than fiscal year 2021.

State Pensions -- Responding to feedback from the community, the legislature will focus our work this session on governance reform to bring increased professional financial expertise and greater transparency into how investment decisions are made. We'll also be creating a Pension Task Force that brings all stakeholders, from the

unions to the Governor, to the table to look at possible revenue sources and plan and benefit changes to fix this problem. I remain deeply committed to working on this critical issue so that our pension system is sustainable for generations to come.

Visit the General Assembly

website at [legislature.vermont.gov](http://legislature.vermont.gov) to watch the House of Representatives live (or recorded) daily deliberations, for bills I've co-sponsored, for roll call votes, and to watch committee testimony.

If you need assistance or want to discuss your priorities or needs, please reach out anytime.



*It is our mission to provide opportunities for children and families to recognize their individual strengths while supporting them to grow and contribute within our communities. We offer highly specialized educational, therapeutic, and behavioral support programs designed to meet the distinctive needs of the children, youth, and families we serve*

### BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST – LARAWAY SCHOOL

The person in this position will provide daily educational and behavioral support to individual students struggling to find success in the educational setting. Candidates will also support individualized academic plans, classroom based activities; community based service learning and school to work initiatives. Time will also be spent in the outdoor learning environment. Bachelor's Degree, or pursuing Bachelor's Degree, preferably in human services is required. We are seeking both part-time and full-time candidates. **FULL TIME, PART TIME and SUMMER ONLY** opportunities are available.

### CLINICAL CASE MANAGERS – LARAWAY SCHOOL

The Clinical Case Manager works in concert with a multi-discipline treatment team consisting of behavioral staff, special educators and teachers to provide trauma informed care for students and support for staff. The Clinical Case Manager works in a therapeutic milieu to provide treatment planning, behavior planning and clinical guidance for staff. The position requires close collaboration with school staff and community partners. Good communication skills and flexibility is a must for this position.

Requirements: LCSW or LMHC preferred (or pursuing and nearing completion). Prior experience working in a clinical setting with youth is a bonus. Opportunities are available in Johnson and Hardwick VT. Internship opportunities and access to supervision towards licensure are available. **FULL and PART TIME opportunities are available.** We have openings in our Johnson and Hardwick locations.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION CASE MANAGERS

The Special Educator Case Manager will case manage the aspects of a student's services related to the students special education services, while adhering to all state and federal regulations. This position supports the student, team, teachers and family in carrying out education and treatment goals. The Special Education Case Manager works in collaboration with teachers, families and community partners. Requirements: Special Education Licensure (or nearing completion) and prior experience working in an educational setting with emotional and behavior disorders is preferred. Opportunities are available in Johnson and Hardwick, VT. **FULL TIME, PART TIME and SUMMER ONLY** opportunities are available. We have openings in our Johnson and Hardwick locations.

### COMMUNITY & RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT STAFF

We are seeking to fill several full and part time positions. Individuals will provide support to clients in a community and/or residential setting. Actual shifts will vary by position, most requiring afternoon, evening and/or weekend work. Candidates must be flexible and patient, enthusiastic about working with youth and enjoy physical activity. The role provides one-on-one supports in social, recreational, and educational settings. Positions require the ability to engage in physical activities, some strenuous, including hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, swimming, etc. Prior experience working with youth that have emotional behavioral disorders is a plus. High School Diploma or equivalent is required.

### CASE MANAGER – RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

The Case Manager role provides coordination of ongoing supports and services in the Substitute Care Residential Home. The Case Manager will provide management supports for children and their team, working in collaboration with other agencies. They will provide support and supervision to assigned clients and provide mentoring, supervision and support to assigned Residential Support Staff. Good communication skills and flexibility is a must for this position. A Bachelor's Degree in human services with relevant experience is preferred but pursuit of a degree with relevant experience will be considered.

### HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST

Under the guidance of the HR Director, the HR Generalist will provide HR related supports and guidance to assigned population, including recruitment, employee relations, Workers Compensation, training, etc. This position will also be responsible for the day-to-day logistics and administration of employee benefits, recruitment and onboarding. A Bachelor's Degree in related field is preferred however, at least 2 years of relevant work experience and/or HR Certification will be considered.

All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, pass a criminal record check, and those working with youth must also have a safe driving record, and access to a reliable, registered and insured vehicle.

If you are interested in being a part of a dynamic organization that encourages creativity, growth and collaboration...come join our team!

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Submit resume and three references to:

Laraway Youth & Family Services – Attn: HR

P.O. Box 621,

Johnson, VT 05656

Phone: 802-635-2805

Fax: 802-635-7273

EMAIL: [APPLY@LARAWAY.ORG](mailto:APPLY@LARAWAY.ORG) or [SCHOOLSPRING](mailto:SCHOOLSPRING)

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# YANKEE NOTEBOOK

## Like the Adventurers of Antiquity

by Willem Lange

EAST MONTPELIER – On Friday evenings during that long-ago summer, I drove home from work on the construction job, showered, changed, and downed a snack. A little before seven in the evening I was parked outside the telephone company building, waiting for the end of her shift. She said years later how exciting it was to look out the seventh-floor window in the dusk and see the roadster way down below. We put her overnight bag into the boot (Jaguars don't have trunks), and off we went into the gathering darkness to I-90 East.

Some two hours later, threading the twists and dips of old Route 8 through the southern Adirondacks, the blast of the exhaust echoing from the forest and rock cuts beside the highway, it was easy to feel like the adventurers of antiquity. I had no bank account or checkbook; credit cards hadn't been invented; and mobile phones weren't dreamed of. Every cent I owned was in my pockets, and that wasn't much. We were just two kids headed for the mountains and a shabby ten-dollar-a-month pied-à-terre I kept in a little valley village. It was the essence of romance; Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron couldn't have done it better. All that stood between us and

calamity was the steady roar of six British cylinders. They, and the young lady beside me, never let me down.

The Jaguar had to leave, sadly, sixty-one years ago, and the young lady, tragically, three years ago. Now, in the thirteenth lonely month of a recommended separation from the bulk of the human race – and just as it looks as though restrictions may be loosened – we hear of further outbreaks in parts of our nation, and apparently out-of-control infection in other nations. This office, where I've been sheltering for over a year now, with a view to the northwest and the dog right behind me in the recliner, begins to feel like a small island without a boat.

Is it any wonder, then, that the mind travels back to other days, adventures, triumphs, and calamities? There are, after all, thousands of them, far more than could possibly lie ahead. A bit of Internet "wisdom" that pops up now and then is, "You get old and wise by first being young and foolish." I'm pretty sure about the old part; less sure about the "wise." If we manage to survive the follies of our youth, we do at least get old. I'm personally grateful for the quick reflexes, physical fitness, and the what-the-hell attitude of my youth. They were the stuff of many memories.



courtesy photo

*The belated honeymoon.*

John McPhee, one of my favorite writers, is a bit older than I; he turned ninety last month. In this week's New Yorker, he mines his memories, their effects, and their implications in a piece called "Tabula Rasa, Part Two." Reading it was all it took to pull the bung from my own keg. I started wandering back, occasionally even digging out an old journal to make sure I wasn't astray.

We never did have a honeymoon – married on Saturday in Virginia, 450 miles back to work on Monday in Syracuse – but six years and two kids later, we finally took one, courtesy of a boss of mine with guide boats on the Ausable Lakes in the Adirondacks. The accommodations weren't exactly posh – a long-abandoned headwaters hunting camp with a tilting floor – but the pure romance and the majesty of the Great Range rising just north of us made it magical.

We taught school on the west shore of Lake Champlain and built our first house, for which she drew the plans in pencil on a big piece of

poster board. I built it. Starting in 1965, we spent our summers working on an island off the coast of Maine, at an Outward Bound school. That led a few years later to a move to Hanover and the start of permanent residence in New England.

After a gut-wrenching bankruptcy, we spent a winter with our teenage daughter in a 12x20-foot shack in the woods; electricity, but no running water. Not a happy memory, but indelible. I can look at it now and shrug off the pain; and what do you suppose our daughter used as her college application essay? I can sit here and reel 'em off by the dozen: down the Allagash and across Baxter Park with the kids, and Martha as a two-year-old; my wife's blissful expression as she and I putted through tiny limestone villages in southern France; her awe as she leaned close to a Renoir in the Boston Museum one day, whispering, "He touched this!" Her awful final days. I'll tell you: If the contagion should last even another grim year, there's plenty right here to last me at least that long.



courtesy photo

*The old Jaguar.*

## THE Hardwick Gazette Since 1889

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# IN THE GARDEN

## It's Time to Reflect on Our Gardens

by Henry Homeyer

CORNISH FLAT, N.H. – This is a good time to look carefully at your garden, and to decide what you might do to make it better. Spring is upon us, trees and shrubs are waking up in my garden, but perennials are still mostly dormant and woody plants are just beginning to leaf out. It is a good time to look at “the bones” of the garden and decide what needs to be done.

The bones of the garden are the trees, shrubs, stone walls, sculpture, water features and pathways. These are visible in winter, though often covered in snow. In summer they can become focal points, or almost disappear as flowering plants shout out for attention.

Each of us reacts to spaces a little differently. Some want an enclosed garden that is quiet and private. Others want a long view of the sea, a pond, or a distant mountain. If you are lucky, you might be able to divide your garden up so that you enjoy more than one type of garden: sunny, shaded, private or open to the view of pass-

disguise the fence or wall. Still, if you have a new puppy or a bouncy four-year old child, you may opt for the immediate enclosure provided by fencing.

Alternatively, you can plant trees. There are advantages to this: trees get bigger and better every year. They provide habitat and food for birds, pollinators and all sorts of small animals. They reduce water runoff. And although some require occasional pruning, most of Mother Nature's trees do just fine on their own. Some are fast growing, others will just inch along, holding place without shading the understory.

The street side of your house is important. What you show the world says something about you. If you plant a tall hedge, it can send a signal to others that you wish to remain undisturbed. If you have just lawn, it says you are not a gardener. If you plant beds and islands of color, you are saying, “Welcome, and enjoy!” Of course, lawns are the easiest to maintain, especially if you accept my mantra, “If it's green and you can mow it, it's a lawn.” I love a few dandelions and love my clover, which fixes



*courtesy photo*

*A simple blue birdbath can add color and interest.*

instead of lawn between the trees, imagine groundcovers. It will soften the look of your home and invite birds and pollinators. You can keep some lawn, just reduce its footprint.

What other bones can you add to your property? Stone is wonderful in all its forms. The simplest stone additions are just boulders or tall, narrow standing stones. One and done. Stone walls are delightful, but expensive.

You can also build a cairn – a pile of stones similar to the markers seen on mountain trails above the tree line. The key, if piling up stones to create a pyramid or cairn, is to ensure that each stone is resting on two stones below it. And be careful that when you touch a stone it does not tumble. The earth does move a bit with the seasons, so building a sturdy structure is important.

Water features are nice, too. A simple birdbath can add interest

their choice instead.

I love sculpture in the garden. One of my favorite sculpture gardens is the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Mass. It's 20 miles outside of



*courtesy photo*

*Our pea-stone walkway keeps the garden neat.*

Boston and has 30 acres of gardens chock full of delightful art, and it's worthy of a visit. A place like that might inspire you to make or buy some art. So long as it gives you pleasure, it's worth garden space. Found metal objects can be turned into art – if you think outside the box.

Sculpturefest in Woodstock, Vt., is an annual outdoor exhibition of sculpture made by local artists and is always worthy of a visit. See more at [sculpturefest.org/](http://sculpturefest.org/).

Pathways are important to gardens. They can keep your shoes out of mud and protect the soil from erosion. Flat stones are great, as are pea stone or small gravel. Chipped branches or bark mulch can be used for walkways, too. Pathways naturally lead one forward to other parts of the garden. Grassy paths are simple and work well so long as they are not worn bare by too much foot traffic.

So go outside and do some planning – even if it is too early to do much now.



*courtesy photo*

*This garden gnome in his stone igloo that was sturdy and fun to build enhanced my garden for years.*

ers-by. If you have just a city lot, you may have to choose just one kind of garden to focus on.

Making a garden private means creating visual barriers. You can do that overnight by hiring a company to put up a wooden eight-foot fence. Your neighbors may not like this and walls are generally monochromatic and boring. Of course, you can then grow vines up them, or plant trees and shrubs in front of them, but plants take time to fill in and

atmospheric nitrogen into the soil – it's free fertilizer.

Trees and shrubs are important on the front lawn as much as in the gardens behind the house. You can break up the straight lines of driveway and front walk. When thinking through your plans, take a garden hose and curve it around to define spaces. Create beds with bump-outs, and drive stakes to indicate where you might add trees and use shorter stakes to indicate shrubs. And



*courtesy photo*

*Standing stones are wonderful in winter.*

and provide water for insects and birds. I have a blue ceramic birdbath that adds color and height to a flower bed – even though the birds seem to ignore it. I was told to put a stone in the water for them to perch on, but even that has not lured them in. Of course, I have a brook nearby, so that is probably

# MEETING MEMO

**Monday, April 26**

• **Walden Select Board**, every other Monday, 6:30 p.m.

**Town Websites, Town Clerks**  
Cabot: cabotvt.us

Calais: calaisvermont.gov

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Greensboro: greensborovt.org

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Marshfield: town.marshfield.vt.us

Plainfield: plainfieldvt.us

Stannard: Stannard town clerk: (802) 533-2577, open Wed., 8-noon, townofstannard@myfairpoint.net

Walden: Walden town clerk: (802) 563-2220, open Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thurs., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. waldentc@pivot.net

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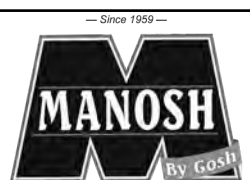
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# SPORTS

## Hebert Finally Tastes Victory at Northeast Classic

LOUDON, N.H. – Reigning American-Canadian Tour (ACT) champion Jimmy Hebert of Williamstown, Vt., finally scored a long-awaited victory at Loudon's New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS) on Sunday, April 18, in the inaugural Northeast Classic.

Hebert was awarded the win following post-race technical inspection, giving the veteran a triumph he'd been chasing for his entire decade-long Late Model career.

The now eight-time ACT Late Model Tour winner was leading the event with three laps to go before getting passed by Center Conway's D.J. Shaw. However, Shaw was later disqualified for a carburetor infraction. This gave Hebert the win and a \$5,000 top prize on a busy afternoon at "The Magic Mile".

East Bridgewater, Mass.'s Ryan Kuhn started on the pole and led the first four laps. Shaw then passed him from the fifth starting spot and drove away from the field. Hebert and New Salem, Mass.'s Tom Carey III followed Shaw around Kuhn,

who was eventually felled by a brake problem. The duo could only watch Shaw drive into the afternoon sun until a competition caution on lap 27 for right-side tires and adjustments.

Shaw pulled away again after the restart until Jimmy Renfrew Jr. smacked the backstretch wall with 11 laps to go. The leader chose the inside for the restart, but Hebert made a charge on the outside, taking the top spot after two laps of side-by-side racing.

Hebert held the lead through one more caution on lap 43 for Dylan Payea's stalled automobile. Shaw, though, had the faster long-run car and got below Hebert in turn three for the top spot with laps winding down. The joy was short-lived, however, and Hebert was named the victor in his first Late Model race driving a Ford.

Carey moved up into the second spot following the disqualification after a late battle with Ben Rowe. Turner, Maine's Rowe became the new third-place finisher. Mark Jenison, Derek Ming, Stephen



*courtesy photo*  
Williamstown, Vt.'s Jimmy Hebert (right) is interviewed following his victory in the Northeast Classic on the ACT Late Model Tour.

Donahue, Trenton Goodrow, Erick Sands, Robby Gordon Douglas, and Payea rounded out the top 10.

The ACT Late Model Tour is next in action at Barre, Vt.'s Thunder Road Speedbowl on Sunday, May 2, for the Community

Bank N.A. 150. The touring stars join Thunder Road's Late Models for 150 laps at the "Nation's Site of Excitement". The Flying Tigers, Street Stocks, and Road Warriors complete the card. Post time is 1:30 p.m.

## Twinfield Alums Look to Revive Softball Program

by Ken Brown

PLAINFIELD – The Twinfield softball team welcomes back varsity spring sports this season with a new look in the dugout as former alums Summer Haverick and Christin Martin will co-coach the team.

Haverick, a recent UVM graduate, and Martin, a recent Castleton University graduate, are friends, roommates, and former teammates of some very successful Lady

Trojan teams under former head coach Mike Potter. Haverick has coached some of the girls on the current roster at the middle school level and looks forward to seeing them continue to develop now that they are freshmen and sophomores.

"I didn't have enough time to coach while I was in school, but ironically my job now gives me that time and Christin and I are really excited to have the opportunity to coach together at a place where we had a lot of fun and success. It's

a great group of girls and we want to help them develop their skills and enjoy the same kind of experiences that we were able to have here at Twinfield," said Haverick.

With softball and baseball programs dwindling around the state and COVID-19 still looming, it can be challenging to field teams in smaller schools, but the Lady Trojans will have 10 on a roster that includes three seniors, a junior, three sophomores, a freshman, and two eighth graders.

Seniors Kayla Green and Delaney Fowler return with the most varsity experience, but Haverick has liked what she sees from her younger players so far in practice and hopes to be strong defensively, with a little more depth at pitching than expected.

"We've had some great leadership from our seniors so far in practices and Madison Duke and Ginger Klarich are part of a very talented group of athletic underclassmen that are very versatile. Christin was a catcher so she has a lot of knowledge in that field as well as the pitching aspect and it has been nice to see that we have a few girls who can throw and are willing to put in the work to get better. Overall, this is a very committed group, and we are all really excited to get the season started and try to bring interest back to the program," said Haverick.

The Lady Trojans are scheduled to open the season at home against Peoples Academy on Thursday before traveling to Williamstown on Saturday.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Rachel Bailey has her eyes on the ball during a Craftsbury team practice April 14. Their first game is scheduled for April 28 at Lake Region at 4:30 p.m.



*photo by Vanessa Fournier*  
Craftsbury softball coach Ashley Gravel hits balls to the infield during practice on Dustan Field April 14.

# SPORTS

## JIM FLINT'S RUNNERS' ROUNDUP



photo by Vanessa Fournier

The Hazen Union track and field team, coached by Kathy Fortmann: (from left) Mary Jane McKenzie, Jessica Royer, Anna Wright, Lila Meyer, Ella Considine, Bruce Fortmann, and Charles Kehler. Missing is Cassandra Royer.

### Road Racing Returns Rapidly

BURLINGTON — Four Hardwick area runners returned to road racing on Saturday, April 10 at the Unplugged Half Marathon. Elizabeth McCarthy, Tim Hogeboom, David McMath, and Keilidh McMath were among 516 athletes pacing 13.1 miles on a picture-perfect early spring day.

*“We tried to get in a long run of eight miles each week, along with a few shorter runs.”*

The half marathon started and finished at Waterfront Park. Utilizing COVID-19 race protocols, the field was divided into four waves spaced at half-hour intervals. Masks were required at the start of the race and after runners finished. Instead of a mass wave start, entrants set off on their own during each half-hour wave, with computer chips tracking individual times.

Although spectators were

not allowed at the start and finish, plenty of folks turned out along the Burlington Path and in the Colchester neighborhoods across the Winooski River Bridge, encouraging the runners and ringing bells. Volunteers monitored road crossings. Water bottles were supplied at contact-free aid stations.

Tim Hogeboom and Elizabeth McCarthy trained all winter for the race. The Walden couple cross country skied, snowshoed, and ran up and down a snowmobile trail near Coles Pond to build their endurance. They also completed a 2.2-mile virtual snowshoe race during February at the Millstone Trails in Barre, along with their dog and running companion, Finn.

“We tried to get in a long run of eight miles each week, along with a few shorter runs,” said Hogeboom, who will soon turn 70. “Our goal is to keep fit and live longer.”

“Instead of a rigid training plan, we go by feel,” added McCarthy. “There was a sense of relief at this race because we were fully vaccinated.”

Due to the pandemic, last year’s Unplugged Half Marathon was postponed from April to October. Despite cold and rainy

weather, Hogeboom and McCarthy completed the fall half marathon in respective times of 1:58:31 and 2:18:34. Six months later, Hogeboom’s time was 1:57:48 for the spring version of the race. McCarthy, 68, finished in 2:21:37.

The Unplugged Half Marathon was the first race since 2019 for David McMath, 58, from East Hardwick. He crossed the finish line in two hours and 12 seconds. McMath’s daughter, Keilidh McMath, 31, completed the scenic course in 2:33:12.

“Tim twisted my arm to sign up, and once Keilidh found out she signed up. She then talked two of her friends into signing up,” said McMath. “The wave start was a different twist having the fast runners mixed in, not out in the front like normal. Getting passed by obviously really fast runners towards the end was surprising. Otherwise, it was a well-run, low-key event. Can’t beat running along the lake on a sunny day and very fun to get out!”

The next event on the schedule for area runners is the Paul Mailman Ten Miler and 5k, on Saturday, April 24. Elizabeth McCarthy and Tim Hogeboom plan to run the ten-mile distance. The races begin and end at the Vermont Department of Labor building in Montpelier. COVID-19 rules will be in place with wave starts. The event is coordinated by Central Vermont Runners. Online preregistration is required for all runners. Race details are available at [cvrunters.org](http://cvrunters.org).



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Craftsbury softball players (from left) Sage Sweeney, Ariana VanDyk, and Sophia Augsberger listen to their coach during practice Wednesday.

# SPORTS



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen Union baseball players Aasha Gould (left), Wyatt Flanders (center) and Tyson Davison (right) walk off Hudson Field after practice Wednesday.



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Hazen Union assistant coach Joey Rivard (left) watches as catcher James Montgomery tags Aasha Gould at home plate during practice Wednesday. The team's first home game is scheduled for April 29 against Danville at 4:30 p.m.

## Wildcats Hope to Recapture Momentum after Lost Season

by Ken Brown

HARDWICK – First year head coach Spencer Howard led the Hazen Union baseball team to its first playoff victory in 12 years two seasons ago and he hopes to rekindle some of that same magic on the diamond this spring after 2020 was erased due to COVID-19.

Howard will go into the 2021 season with 16 players on the roster, with Ethan Shopland being the lone senior on the team. Hunter King, Tyson Davison, Aasha

so far. Having a Babe Ruth season last summer has really been beneficial to our younger guys and it will serve as a nice bridge to developing their skills for the speed of the varsity game. After last year, it is just nice to be out here watching the kids be able to play ball again," said Howard.

The Wildcats should have a deep and versatile lineup, with a lot of athleticism and solid defensive fundamentals. Howard has depth on the mound and will use a committee of arms in what will be a challenging schedule that is always affected by weather and has already been altered by COVID-19. The season opener at Blue Mountain scheduled for last week was canceled after the Wildcats' practices were paused due to protocols and their two games slated with Richford later this season have been canceled after the Falcons opted to not have a program. Hazen Union's practices are back on track and they are scheduled to open the season at Enosburg later this week.

"We have some good athletes on this team with some quality arms and we're going to need all of them this year, I think. I hate not having a junior varsity program this season, but it could end up being a blessing in disguise because we are going to need a lot of depth to get through a schedule that could change on a dime with

weather and protocols. We have a lot of guys pushing each other to get playing time and that kind of competition sharpens a team. We're excited to get the season started and see some live action,"

said Howard.

Hazen is scheduled to travel to Enosburg on Thursday and Northfield on Saturday. Their season opener is slated for next Thursday against Danville.

*"We have some good athletes on this team with some quality arms and we're going to need all of them this year."*

Gould, and Wyatt Flanders also return with varsity experience and Howard will have the challenge of developing a young group around them in a short period of time.

"That playoff win feels like so long ago now, but once everyone got back together and we started practicing, that feeling started coming back to the guys of what direction we had this program going in 2019. There was some rust to shake off at first, but we were able to get outside earlier than I can ever remember, and I like what I've seen



photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Lyle Rooney catches a ground ball as Jake Davison backs up the play during Hazen's practice April 14.